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vowels, fifty-five are long vowels. The long vowels are nearly twice as numerous as the short vowels, and three and a half times as numerous as the half-vowels. In this calculation no account has been taken of Pāthāḥ-furtive, and no distinction made between simple (vocal) and compound Š'wâ.

	Verses.	Words.	Vowel-sounds.	Half-vowels.	Short vowels.	Long vowels.
Chapter I.	31	363	1042	173	316	553
Chapter II.	25	283	769	124	217	428
Chapter III.	24	298	821	117	225	479
Chapter IV.	26	290	784	121	240	423
Total		1234	3416	535	998	1883

The Nominative Absolute.—A construction not sufficiently emphasized in most grammars, and one worthy of careful study is that of the *Nominative Absolute*.¹ Consider the subject in the following way: (1) Note the use of הָאֶרֶץ in Gen. xxviii., 13, and find a similar construction in Gen. xxvi., 15; Deut. ii., 23; xiv., 27; Josh. ix., 12. (2) Note the use of שָׁכֶם in Gen. xxxiv., 8 and find a similar construction in Deut. xxxii., 4; xxxiii., 17; 1 Sam. iii., 11. (3) Note the use of הָאִישׁ מִיכָה in Judg. xvii., 5 and find a similar construction in Lev. vii., 7, 33; Job xxii., 8. (4) Note the use of אֲנִי in Gen. xvii., 4 and find a similar construction in Gen. xxiv., 27; xlii., 11; Deut. xviii., 14.

Now study the phrases הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים *Jehovah, HE (is) the God*; הָדָם הוּא הַנֶּפֶשׁ *the blood, THAT is the life*. What is called the copula in these phrases, viz., הוּא, is really the subject of which הָאֱלֹהִים in one case and הַנֶּפֶשׁ in the other is the predicate; while the first word in each phrase is strictly speaking a nominative absolute, although logically the subject of the sentence. Compare with this similar cases in Gen. ii., 14, 19; ix., 18; xv., 2; Isa. ix., 14; xxxiii., 6.

The following statement will serve now as a summing up of the matter: For the sake of emphasis and for the avoidance of unwieldy sentences a noun or pronoun is frequently placed at the beginning of the sentence with, strictly speaking, no grammatical relation to the other words of the sentence, but represented in the body of the sentence by a pronominal suffix. This noun or pronoun may be *logically* the object of the sentence, or its subject, or the object of a preposition; or standing as the logical subject, it may be resumed by the pronoun הוּא which then, though really the grammatical subject of the following predicate, is equivalent, or nearly so, to a copula.

Other particulars might be noted, but for the first study, this is sufficient.

The Word לֵב or לֶבֶב.—Many students never take up their dictionary except to examine it with reference to something which has come up at the very

¹ See, however, Appendix V. 1, *The Casus Pendens* in Driver's Use of the Tenses in Hebrew, upon which this is based.